

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for externally retaining a medical tube against a patient, said medical tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, said distal portion being disposed within the patient and terminating in a distal end, said proximal portion extending externally from the patient and terminating in a proximal end, said device comprising a clip, said clip being constructed to define a bore and a tubing storage cavity, said bore being dimensioned to receive a length of the proximal portion of the medical tube therethrough, with the remainder of the proximal portion being held in a looped back configuration by said tubing storage cavity.

2. The device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said clip comprises:

(a) a first end wall, said first end wall having a top surface and a bottom surface, said bore extending from said top surface to said bottom surface;

(b) a second end wall spaced apart from said first end wall;

(c) a lower wall interconnecting said first end wall and said second end wall;

and

(d) an upper wall connected at a first end to said first end wall;

(e) wherein said first end wall, said second end wall, said lower wall and said upper wall together define said tubing storage cavity.

3. The device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said clip is a unitary structure.

4. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein said clip is generally rectangular in shape.

5. The device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said upper wall further has a second end opposite to said first end, said second end being spaced apart from said second end

wall so as to define a tubing inlet therebetween through which the medical tubing may be inserted into said tubing storage cavity.

6. The device as claimed in claim 5 further comprising an inlet cover slidably mounted around said clip for selectively covering said tubing inlet.

7. The device as claimed in claim 6 wherein said clip further comprises an oversized cover stop disposed on the outer end of said second end wall for delimiting movement of said inlet cover.

8. The device as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a base adapted to be mounted on a patient, said clip being mounted on said base.

9. The device as claimed in claim 8 wherein said base has an adhesive top surface and an adhesive bottom surface.

10. The device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said upper wall is pivotally connected to said first end wall.

11. The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said upper wall and said second end wall are adapted to releasably engage one another.

12. The device as claimed in claim 11 wherein said second end wall is provided with a plurality of vertically-stacked teeth and wherein said upper wall is provided with a pawl adapted to releasably engage said vertically-stacked teeth.

13. The device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said second end wall of said clip includes a top surface, said top surface being shaped to define an elongated groove adapted to receive the proximal end of the medical tube.

14. The device as claimed in claim 15 wherein said groove extends generally parallel to said lower wall.

15. A method for externally retaining a medical tube against a patient, said medical tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, said distal portion being disposed within the patient and terminating in a distal end, said proximal portion extending externally from the patient and terminating in a proximal end, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a retaining device comprising a clip, said clip being constructed to define a bore and a tubing storage cavity, said bore being dimensioned to receive a length of the proximal portion of the medical tube therethrough, with the remainder of the proximal portion being held in a looped back configuration by said tubing storage cavity;

(b) advancing the proximal portion of the medical tube through said bore in said clip; and

(c) retaining the remainder of the proximal portion of the medical tube in a looped back configuration using said tubing storage cavity.

16. A method for externally retaining a medical tube against a patient, said medical tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, said distal portion being disposed within the patient and terminating in a distal end, said proximal portion extending externally from the patient and terminating in a proximal end, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a retaining device, said retaining device comprising a clip, said clip comprising:

(i) a first end wall, said first end wall having a top surface, a bottom surface and a bore, said bore extending from said top surface to said bottom surface,

(ii) a second end wall spaced apart from said first end wall,

(iii) a lower wall interconnecting said first end wall and said second end wall, and

(iv) an upper wall connected at a first end to said first end wall,

(v) wherein said first end wall, said second end wall, said lower wall and said upper wall together define a tubing storage cavity;

(b) advancing the proximal portion of the medical tube through said bore in said clip;

(c) then, wrapping the proximal portion of the medical tube emergent from said bore around a side of said upper wall to form a pinch point; and

(c) then, inserting the remainder of the proximal portion of the medical tube through said tubing storage cavity in a looped back configuration, said tubing storage cavity being dimensioned to retain said remainder in said looped back configuration.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising after step (b), the step of securing said clip to the patient.

18. The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said inserting step comprises positioning the proximal end of the medical tube so that it is positioned on the same side of said upper wall as said pinch point.

19. The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the medical tube is a gastrostomy feeding tube.